

June 30, 2009

Special points of interest:

- **Planning on Clean Water**
- **Minnesota Waters 2009 Lakes and Rivers Conference**
- **Crooked Lake T-Shirts and sweatshirts available**
- **Summer General Meeting—Aug 2**
- **CLAA Survey Insert**

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Planning on Clean Water

Imagine Crooked Lake in 2020... imagine the water cleaner than it is today.

For over 70 years Crooked Lake has been managed, like many lakes, in reaction to issues that have likely reached critical stages. Several agencies and users have jurisdiction or impact on the health of the lake. Yet, there has been no overarching plan or set of goals for the lake. To protect and enhance the health of the lake for the future, Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) has advocated for long range comprehensive planning with the cooperation of the most vital stewards of the lake, the lakeshore residents.

The purpose for the Crooked Lake Comprehensive Lake Management Plan is to provide a comprehensive "picture" of the lake

based on scientific and historical information. Therefore, this Plan addresses previous research and management actions, long-term goals, ways to achieve those goals, and ecological & economic consequences of those goals. To do this, the plan scope includes review and analysis of watershed hydrology, lake water quality, nutrient budgets, aquatic communities & ecology, and management & control of the invasive species, Eurasian water milfoil & curly leaf pondweed.

Two primary goals of this Plan are:

Understanding the water quality condition of Crooked Lake

Developing strategies for the protection and enhancement of water quality including:

a 5-year 'forecast' of budgeting activities gives agencies time to plan for these activities and

associated projected costs. These are to be reviewed annually to adapt to changed situations

With increased development and scientific understanding of water issues, plus changes in precipitation patterns, the complexity of water management also increases. A look at trends and forecasts indicates a need for water quality plans for subwatersheds, such as this one for Crooked Lake, plus increased demands and requirements for land-owners and land managers.

The vision for a clean Crooked Lake in 2020 requires planning and action by all in the watershed.

Information provided by Coon Creek Watershed District: 763.755.0975 or info@cooncreekwd.org.

Written by Dawn Doering, CCWD



On Thursday and Friday, May 7 and 8, I attended the Minnesota Waters 2009 Lakes and Rivers Conference at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota.

I learned that there are many resources for homeowners and lake groups.

There is a large statewide resource at <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/>

In fact for \$100 a year – the CLAA could have a website with this Non-profit organization as many other lakes associations do.

I recommend every CLAA homeowner spend some time at BlueThumb.org. (more on pg 3)

Also, the DNR has posted the Preliminary Draft with statewide minimum standards and criteria

Minnesota Waters 2009 Lakes and Rivers Conference

for Wild and Scenic rivers as well as shoreland rules.

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/shoreland/shoreland_rules_update_prelim.html#prelim_draft

I would like the CLAA to apply for a grant from Clean Water Legacy Act Surface Water Assessment Grants at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/swgrant.html

Written by Josephine Larson



Rain garden planted with grasses and flowers



On May 1, 2009, River Raiders 4-H Club volunteered to educate neighbors about water pollution by stenciling stormdrains with the message 'Only Rain Down the Drain.'



Native plant buffers provide many benefits to the lake

Rain down the drain? No in the Garden!

Wouldn't it be nice to add a garden to your property with plants that have an array of different colors, adds diversity by breaking up the monotony of turf grass and helps clean up Crooked Lake? Now, wouldn't it be nice to have help in constructing this garden and have grant money to help fund the project? You may be thinking, yes, in your dreams.

Actually, this dream may become reality. The City of Andover, in conjunction with the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) and Anoka Conservation District, is working on planning a project to help improve the water quality of

Crooked Lake by encouraging infiltration of storm water instead of direct runoff into the lake. This would be accomplished by installing a series of rain gardens, which are shallow basins filled with native forbs, grasses and/or shrubs designed to catch and filter storm water runoff. They are a sensible form of alternative landscaping that are not only functional, but beautiful as well and very beneficial to the environment. The specific area of the proposed project is in the Meadow Creek Estates development, which is west of Crooked Lake.

To make this happen, project staff is continuously seeking property owners in the above development who are interested in having a garden of this sort in their front yard. Once a workable number of "volunteers" is attained, staff can begin the design phases, which involves an overall concept plan.

This will get presented to the CCWD and will require its approval before the project actually can happen, as this is part of a grant application process.

If you're interested in learning more, please call Kameron Kytonen, Andover Natural Resources Technician, at 763-767-5137.

by Kameron Kytonen

Landscaping on Lakeshores Local experts provide help...and grants

Your lakeshore is probably the most enjoyable part of your property. It provides a lot of opportunities for recreation and viewing wildlife. Properly maintaining your lakeshore is important, both to you and to the lake.

The Anoka Conservation District is available to provide expert help and grants for lake-friendly landscaping. Usually, expert advice on landscaping comes with an expert-level price tag. But state and local government have recognized that lakeshore is critical for lake health. How you landscape your lakeshore impacts the entire lake.

Start the planning process by getting a no-cost consultation from the Anoka Conservation District. If you are still interested, ACD staff will provide you with a custom "lakescaping" design and

cost estimate for a modest fee. Lake-friendly landscaping can be designed to look semi-formal or naturalized, and incorporates access to the lakeshore for swimming, boating, and fishing. Most lakeshore landscaping efforts target 50-70% of the lakeshore length, leaving the remainder for active use. Cost share grants are also available from the Anoka Conservation District for design and purchase of eligible materials for natural shoreline restoration and erosion control.

Even if you are not interested in designing landscaping for your lakeshore, there are some easy things you can do to promote a healthy lake:

- Don't mow to the water's edge.
- Mowing to the edge is perhaps the single greatest cause of

shoreline erosion.

Avoid using rip-rap or retaining walls which reduce habitat and have no benefit to lake water quality.

Keep leaves and grass clippings far away from the lake. They can introduce excess nutrients that promote algae growth.

Don't remove aquatic plants from the shoreline. They are critical habitat for fish and other wildlife.

If you would like advice or financial assistance for your lakeshore, contact the Anoka Conservation District at 763-434-2030 or visit www.anokaswcd.org for more info.

Article submitted by
the Anoka Conservation District

Attention Plant Lovers

We are resurrecting the Crooked Lake Garden Club.

Please come to the planning meeting at Paul and Carol Martins on Sunday evening the 19th of July.

Plan to arrive around 6:00 pm for dessert and drinks.

Please invite anyone you know on or near the lake that loves flowers and other plants.

We can discuss what we would like to do this Fall and over the winter months.

In the past we would have a plant

swap to share our perennials.

Perhaps we could do that this fall or in the spring.

Paul and Carol
12961 Kerry St. NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
(763) 427-5305

<http://www.mg.umn.edu/index.html>

by Carol Martin

CLAA Audit Report

The audit committee met on 5/1/2009 from 5:30-8:00 pm at the home of Paul & Carol Martin.

Present were O. Nereson, President; P. Martin, Treasurer; D. Haire, committee volunteer; & J. Hughes, committee volunteer. Absent: Cary Spiering.

Scope: The committee's task was to conduct an informal audit of the Association's Financials for the period January 1, 2009 to present. A very cursory review of 2008's books was also made.

Results: The committee reviewed the accounting procedure of the treasurer. The committee reviewed the bank statements, the way bills are paid, and membership list spreadsheet system. Paul also explained that he keeps photo copies of membership dues checks received as a record.

Beginning April 9, 2009 the bank accounts were switched from M&I bank to Spire Credit Union, in Coon Rapids. The committee veri-

fied that all funds were transferred. It was noted that both the President and the Treasurer are authorized by the association's bylaws on the bank accounts, to write checks.

The association has two accounts at Spire Credit Union: a general checking account and a savings account. Paul Martin suggested that the saving account be used to accumulate Crooked Lake shirt sales profits. The committee agreed. All other association assets are held in the general checking account.

Conclusions: The committee found all monies to be accounted for and records to be well documented for 2009 year to date. A brief review of 2008's numbers, (back of an envelope style) found no significant discrepancy either. Paul Martin has been the treasurer for many years, taking it over from Carol Martin. The committee recognized Paul and Carol for their outstanding service and commitment to the Association in diligently acting as association treasurer(s). O.Nereson was also

recognized for his service and diligent work as President of our association.

Suggestions: All systems have room for improvement; the committee has a few suggestions that might provide additional clarity in the future:

(1) To avoid confusion of what year members have paid dues for, and to retain a higher portion of landowners as members, the committee suggested that an annual member dues payment deadline be established. A slightly higher dues amount could be required to be paid after that date to create an incentive for members to meet the deadline, and pay each year.

(2) Annual financial statements for organizations are commonly reported in a three report format: Operating Statement, Balance sheet, and Cash Flow statement. The Crooked Lake Association is a simple organization with no debt. It does not issue stock or redeem stock, so a cash flow statement is unnecessary. If in the future CLAA become more heavily involved in fund raising and incur additional expenses in that effort, then maybe



Rain garden planted with shrubs at Crooked Lake Boat Landing in Andover

T-Shirts and Sweatshirts

\$25.00 for crew sweatshirts,
\$35.00 zipper hood
sweatshirts, \$15.00 for adult
t-shirts and \$10.00 for
children sizes.

2XL & 3XL: add \$2.00

4XL: add \$3.00

Cash or checks are acceptable.

Please make checks payable to:
Crooked Lake Area Association.

To order contact:

Jessica Waks at 763.780.2882

jesswaks@gmail.com

From the President

"Imagine Crooked Lake in 2020 . . ."

I like the way Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) started their article in this newsletter. This really does establish the mindset we need to care for Crooked Lake. And, we now have a tool to help us - a long range Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (the Plan).

It is a five year plan that will be reviewed and updated annually. You might call it a "work in progress," because this is not the kind of plan that can be printed and then put on a bookshelf never to be seen again. It will need continual review and action.

Please check out the CCWD article for more information. You can also review the Plan in detail on CCWD's website (www.coonbrook.org)

Implementation of the Plan has already begun with this spring's herbicide treatment, storm drain stenciling, public landing cleanup, and volunteer monitoring. The herbicide treatment cost was \$4852.80 which we expect will be reimbursed to the CLAA from the cities of Andover and Coon Rapids (Coon Rapids check already received). The CLAA and CCWD will seek formal endorsement of the Plan from Andover at its July 21 City Council Meeting; and from Coon Rapids at an August City Council Meeting.

Your CLAA Board meets monthly to discuss Association business, plan meetings, create newsletters, review implementation of the Plan, meet with other involved organizations, etc. They are a hard working group of people and I encourage you to thank them when you have an opportunity - and to step up yourself to serve when elections are held.

To help us in our work, please complete the enclosed survey and mail it or bring it to the Summer Meeting.

Hope to see you at the Summer Picnic Meeting - August 2, 3PM, at Crooked Lake Beach Park.

Written by Gary Nereson



improve water quality. Since we all want

The Blue Thumb program aims to encourage homeowners to use native plant gardening, rain gardens, and shoreline stabilization to reduce runoff from their home landscape in an effort

clean water, Blue Thumb helps partners present a unified public education message.

One element of the Blue Thumb program is an easy-to-use website for homeowners seeking native

plant gardening, rainsides installation, and/or shoreline management information.

www.BlueThumb.org—makes it easy for residents interested in doing their part to protect water quality to plan, purchase and plant native gardens, rainsides and shorelines with native plants.



The Anoka Conservation District can help you design lake-friendly landscaping.

